

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application and stand provisionally rejected in the Outstanding Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the remarks contained herein.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 1-9 stand provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting, and the Outstanding Office Action states that the conflicting claims have not yet been patented. However, copending Application No. 10/083,167 has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,774,336.

Accordingly, Applicants enclose herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the outstanding double patenting rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-9 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of objection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding objections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7524.

Respectfully submitted,

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